

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

SAM-01 USIE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /078 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:WSHERMAN:FIM

APPROVED BY EA/J:WSHERMAN

EA/P - MR. ROSEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, JA

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT MADE BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT REGULAR NOON BRIEFING FEBRUARY 15 (DIALOGUE IS WITH JAPANESE NEWSMAN): BEGIN QUOTE

Q. YOU TOLD US YESTERDAY THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER AND JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA HAVE THE INTENTION OF EXCHANGE VISITS BETWEEN HEAD OF STATES, TOWARD THE END OF THIS YEAR, IN THE MEETING WHICH WAS HELD THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY. COULD YOU REPEAT THAT SAME STATEMENT TODAY?

A. ALL RIGHT. I APPRECIATE YOUR ASKING THAT, BECAUSE THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SOME MISCONSTRUCTION ON WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY.

I WAS ASKED YESTERDAY ABOUT THESE DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE PROJECTED EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN. AND I SAID THAT THE

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PRESIDENT INTENDED TO VISIT JAPAN SOME TIME THIS YEAR,

AND THAT, I THINK, STOOD FOR ITSELF. HOWEVER, SOME PEOPLE SEEM TO HAVE THOUGHT THAT I MEANT TO SUGGEST THAT IN THE CONVERSATION, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE

EMPEROR PLANNED TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES THIS YEAR ALSO.

THE FACT IS NO SPECIFIC DATE WAS DISCUSSED CONCERNING THE EMPEROR'S VISIT. THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION, WHICH WAS MENTIONED IN THE AUGUST 1, 1973 NIXON-TANAKA COMMUNIQUE WAS REPEATED, AND THE DATE IS TO BE FIXED AT SOME TIME CONVENIENT TO BOTH SIDES. AND WHETHER THAT WOULD BE IN 1974 OR LATER, I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY. BUT THE KEY POINT IS THAT THE INVITATION WAS EXTENDED AGAIN TO THE EMPEROR, AND THE TIME IS LEFT OPEN. I THINK THIS WAS THE POINT THAT LED TO SOME CONFUSION IN THE JAPANESE PRESS.

Q. MR. VEST, AT YESTERDAY'S BRIEFING, YOU ANSWERED TO A QUESTION, AND I WILL TRY TO QUOTE, THAT HE -- "HE" MEAN MR. SECRETARY -- RENEWED THE INVITATION TO THE EMPEROR TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES THIS YEAR.

A. THEN I MADE A MISTAKE.

Q. IT WAS YOUR MISTAKE.

A. YES. I DIDN'T REALIZE I HAD SAID THAT. BUT, IN ANY CASE, THE TIMING IS QUITE OPEN, AT MUTUAL CONVENIENCE. END QUOTE.

RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE031391
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WSHERMAN:FIM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740228/aaaabagm.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT MADE BY DEPARTMENT SPOKES-
TAGS: PFOR, JA, US, (HIROHITO), (NIXON, RICHARD M)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005